

Appl. No. 09/849,555
Atty. Docket No. 8325
Amdt. dated 5/24/2005
Reply to Office Action of 2/24/05
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for cleaning fabrics within one apparatus comprising the steps of:
 - a. applying an aqueous vapor to said fabrics, in an amount at least about 0.5% but less than or equal to about 50% by weight of said fabrics;
 - b. applying a lipophilic fluid to said fabrics; and
 - c. extracting at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid;
wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises more than about 50% by weight of the lipophilic fluid of decamethylcyclopentasiloxane.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is applied in an amount of at least about 5% by weight of said fabrics.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is applied in an amount of less than or equal to about 15% by weight of said fabrics.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is pulsed during said Step "a".
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said pulse continues for at least about 5 seconds.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said pulse continues for at most about 30 seconds.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein a time interval separates each of said pulses.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said time interval is at least about 2 seconds.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said time interval is at most about 20 seconds.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Step "a" occurs after said Step "b".

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11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Step "a" occurs during or after said Step "c".

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Step "a" occurs after said Step "c".

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 additionally comprising applying a surfactant to said fabrics.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 additionally comprising applying an emulsifier to said fabrics.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a linear siloxane, ~~a cyclic siloxane,~~
octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane, and mixtures thereof.

16 – 17 (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises an emulsifier.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a surfactant.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said lipophilic fluid is at a temperature from about 10°C to about 100°C.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises an emulsifier.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises a surfactant.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor is at a temperature from about 10°C to about 120°C.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises wet steam.

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25. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises cold steam.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises droplets of less than about 1 millimeter in size.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises droplets of less than about 250 microns in size.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said aqueous vapor comprises droplets of less than about 100 microns in size.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the entire method occurs within a cleaning chamber.

30. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said extracting comprises spinning said fabrics and said lipophilic fluid.

31. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said extracting comprises wringing said fabrics.

32. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said extracting comprises evaporating at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid.

33 - 43 (Canceled)